cost of spirits prohibitive. A heavy duty should be imposed on foreign liquors and the price of country liquor should be increased. The recent increase of court fees was objectionable. The Member submitted that justice should never be taxed more than was absolutely necessary. In any case, it should not be taxed with a view to meet other demands. The principle of local taxation was next condemned by the Member and he pointed out that the increase under that item, during the past 8 years, was an undesirable feature. Coming to primary education, the Member contended that the expenditure was not sufficient and did not come up to the level of other Western countries. He objected to the proposal of Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai to levy an income-tax and observed that the economic condition of the people did not warrant any additional impost of the kind suggested. If the income of Government was to be increased without taxing the people directly or indirectly, Government should turn their attention to the Forests. Though one-third of the area of the State was declared as Reserved Forests, the net revenue derived therefrom was comparatively very small. He then pointed out that the cultivation of rubber, camphor, sandal-wood, &c., by the Forest Department would be highly useful as an object lesson to the people. The Member next recommended a reduction in the number of administrative Divisions and Taluks. It was the general impression that, of all the departments of the State, the Public Works Department consumed a large portion of the revenue. But his opinion was that the budget of that department should not be reduced to a great extent, for the country should be developed by the projecting and carrying out of public works. There were not adequate irrigation facilities except in certain *pakuthies* of Nanjanad and Edanad. The valuable up-country products were either wasted or sold for inadequate prices for want of communication. He was against the enormous expenditure incurred in the erection of palatial public buildings and the maintenance of costly establishments. The staff of the Public Works Department was unduly large and was out of all proportion to the real requirements of the State. It was necessary to appoint an expert in Engineering in the Huzur Office to scrutinise the estimates submitted by the department. The Police Department also admitted of retrenchment. The expenditure in the Judicial Department was equally heavy. The increase of expenditure was chiefly due to the superfluity of courts and judges. The increase of litigation was mainly due to the increase of courts and so the number of courts should be reduced appreciably. The introduction of Village Panchayat Courts in every taluk with at least Rs. 50 jurisdiction and also the establishment of Small Cause Courts with Rs. 500 jurisdiction would give relief to the Munsiffs and Judges. Though Travancore was an agricultural country, it was far behind other countries in the development of agriculture. The amount spent on the department was very small. In conclusion, the Member stated that it was impossible to make any real advance among the people without educating them. The future prosperity of Travancore depended to a great extent upon the advancement of agriculture and industry which could be developed and spread only by mass education. He earnestly requested that no time should be lost and no expenditure stinted to place Travancore on a footing of equality with other advanced countries of the world.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

II. MAIN HEADS OF REVENUE.

(1) Land Revenue.

3. Abrogation of the rule requiring the sanction of Government for filing civil suits in respect of *Kandukrishi* lands and the commutation into money of the paddy tax on *Sripandaravagai* and *Kandukrishi* holdings.

Mr. M. Kesava Pillai (Member, Neyyattinkara Taluk) said that it was not fair to maintain a distinction between *Kandukrishi* or Crown lands and other lands in the State. Formerly, the distinction was not kept up. In para 342 of Dewan Ramaiengar's Settlement Memorandum, it was declared that *Kandukrishi* tenants

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should be given the right of an ordinary tenant *i. e.*, the unrestricted liberty to sell, mortgage or devise such right. It was further laid down that the right of the Crown as the landlord would not be prejudicially affected thereby and that it would be an act of justice to the *Kandukrishi* tenants to grant them the above right. During the years 916 to 1070 M. E., the *Kandukrishi* tenants had enjoyed the right of freely alienating those lands in the same way as other lands and the Government had also tacitly approved of such alienations. But Regulation II of 1070 introduced a provision to the effect that the Civil Courts should not take cognisance of any suit relating to *Kandukrishi* lands, unless the suit was instituted with the specific sanction of Government. The Regulation, however, did not cause any immediate hardship to the tenants, as the Government were freely according the necessary sanction for some time. But the trouble began with the issue of G. O. No. 1216/L. R., dated 23rd January 1913, in which it was laid down that sanction would be accorded to institute civil proceedings only in respect of *Kandukrishi* lands which had passed to other hands by lease and that sanction would not be given where the lands were alienated otherwise. Irresponsible Karanavans of several families which owned *Kandukrishi* lands alienated them for a small consideration and the lands could not be resumed by those families on account of the difficulty of getting the sanction of Government to sue the holders of the lands. The result was that valuable lands were lost to several families for ever. The alienee used to reap the benefit of the labour and money spent on the improvement of the lands by the family of the alienor. Prior to the Government order of 1913, there was no difficulty in collecting the *pattom* on *Kandukrishi* lands, the rent charged on buildings on such lands, &c. But, subsequent to the above order, the collection of such dues also became difficult. The Member, therefore, requested the grant of one of the following prayers :—

(1) that the provision in the Regulation requiring the sanction of Government to institute Civil suits in respect of *Kandukrishi* lands be abrogated and the *Kandukrishi* tenant empowered to dispose of his tenant right either by sale, mortgage, or by will; or,

(2) that permission be given to institute Civil suits in respect of *Kandukrishi* lands which had been alienated before the order of 1913; or,

(3) that sanction be accorded at least to file suits for the redemption of *Kandukrishi* lands which had been alienated before the year 1070.

The Member next said that, in the matter of paying the dues on *Kandukrishi* and *Sripandaravagai* lands, the holders of such lands were labouring under serious disabilities, for, while the ryots holding all other lands were allowed the privilege of paying their paddy tax in money at the commutation rate, the holders of *Kandukrishi* and *Sripandaravagai* lands had to pay their dues in paddy. The above inequality of treatment was hard and unjust and he prayed that the holders of *Kandukrishi* and *Sripandaravagai* lands also might be permitted to enjoy the benefit of the abolition of taxation in kind and allowed to pay their dues in money at the commutation rate. He added that, if deemed necessary, the rate might be fixed even at 14 *chukrams* per para of paddy.

Dewan's reply.—The question relating to suits in respect of *Kandukrishi* lands will again be looked into. The other point is noted.

4. Hardship caused by the present practice of dealing with encroachments on *poramboke* lands and the existing mode of levying *tharavila* on *puduval* lands.

Mr. Philipose Alexander (Member, Kunnathur Taluk) said that the method adopted by Revenue officers in dealing with *poramboke* cases was far from satisfactory. The present measurement of no plot of ground in any part of the State would exactly tally with the measurement of the same plot recorded in the past. In all cases where a slight excess was noticed, the practice of the department was to treat the excess as a *poramboke* and to take steps against the occupant under the provisions of the Land Conservancy Regulation. The *pakuthi* officials were oftentimes not uniform in their procedure and they also failed to take prompt steps

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